

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 7 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1-4, 7-8, 10, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,431,674 B2) in view of Inada Genji (JP 08-216425). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claim 1 and cancels claims 8, 10, 12 and 13.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 2-4 and 7 should be in condition for allowance since they depend from allowable claim 1.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,431,674 B2) in view of Imanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,409,300). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant cancels claim 11. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As stated above, claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 5 is canceled.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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